

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

----- 077716

R 041440Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8726

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SAN JOSE 4572

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XM

SUBJECT: POST-QUITO ROUND ROBIN LETTER

REF: STATE 255993

1. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO'S REPLY TO SECRETARY DATED NOVEMBER 28, WHICH WE RECEIVED DECEMBER 2. TRANSLATION WAS CHECKED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER AT HIS REQUEST.

2. BEGIN QUOTE: DEAR MR. SECRETARY: MANY THANKS FOR YOUR KIND LETTER OF NOVEMBER 21, WHICH I HAVE READ WITH CLOSE ATTENTION.

3. I ALSO REGRET THAT CIRCUMSTANCES MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO ATTEND OUR MEETING IN QUITO. FROM THE BEGINNING I BELIEVED THAT THE EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST WOULD NECESSARILY REQUIRE YOUR PRESENCE IN THAT REGION. I RECOGNIZED THAT PUBLICLY DURING INTERVIEWS ACCORDED TO THE PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING OF CONSULTATION.

4. I WANT TO REPEAT TO YOU, IN ADDITION, WHAT I ALSO SAID PUBLICLY IN QUITO; THAT YOU WERE VERY WELL REPRESENTED BY THE MAGNIFICENT DELEGATION WHICH YOU SENT TO THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF CONSULTATION. MY
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CONTACT WITH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY, MR. ROBERT INGERSOLL,

IMPRESSED ME MOST FAVORABLY. ALTHOUGH THIS WAS HIS FIRST EXPERIENCE WITH THE LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS--WHO ARE NOT ALWAYS EASY--I BELIEVE THAT HE HANDLED HIMSELF LIKE AN OLD HAND. BY THE END OF THE CONFERENCE HE HAD GAINED THE AFFECTION OF THE MAJORITY. IN ADDITION, BILL ROGERS AND BILL MAILLIARD, WHOM I HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF KNOWING AND WORKING WITH FOR MORE THAN 15 YEARS, ARE PROVEN EXPERTS, AND EVEN BETTER, PROVEN FRIENDS OF LATIN AMERICA. THE DIALOGUE WITH THEM WAS EASY AND FRUITFUL, ALTHOUGH THE POSITION OF THE U.S. DELEGATION WAS DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE MAJORITY. IN ANY CASE, AS IS APPROPRIATE, THEY WERE ABLE TO REFLECT YOUR THOUGHTS VERY ACCURATELY.

5. I HAVE NEVER BELIEVED THAT THE CUBAN CASE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT MATTER IN INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS. BUT I DO BELIEVE THAT IT CONSTITUTES A SOURCE OF IRRITATION WHICH DISTURBS THE CALM ANALYSIS OF MANY OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH SHOULD MERIT OUR PREFERENTIAL ATTENTION. THIS I AFFIRMED CATAGORICALLY IN THE SPEECH WHICH I GAVE IN THE GENERAL DEBATE IN QUITO. AMONG OTHER THINGS, I SAID IN THIS RESPECT: "MY GOVERNMENT HOPES THAT THE RESOLUTION OF QUITO WILL REDUCE THE CUBA CASE TO ITS GENUINE DIMENSIONS, ELIMINATING THE EMOTIONAL CHARGE WHICH DISTORTS AND ENLARGES IT. THUS, THE CUBAN CASE WILL CEASE TO OCCUPY A PROMINENT PLACE AMONG THE TOPICS WHICH DIVIDE US, AND WILL CEASE TO DISTRACT OUR EFFORTS FROM THE PRINCIPAL TASK OF THE REGIONAL SYSTEM, WHICH IS NONE OTHER THAN TO ACHIEVE A MORE JUST INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP."

6. AS YOU SAY VERY WELL, THE RESULTS OF THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF CONSULTATION WERE INCONCLUSIVE. NEVERTHELESS, I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE EFFORT WHICH WAS MADE TO DEBATE THE MATTER FORMALLY HAS BEEN IN VAIN, NOR THAT THE MEETING HAS CAUSED DAMAGE TO THE PRESTIGE OF THE OAS. I BASED THIS ON THE FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS:
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7. (A) ONE OF THE MAJOR CRITICISMS MADE AGAINST OUR REGIONAL ORGANIZATION IS THAT IT SYSTEMATICALLY AVOIDS DEALING WITH CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECTS. AND THAT, BY DEALING ONLY WITH THOSE ON WHICH THERE EXISTS A CONSENSUS, IT LEAVES ASIDE MANY PROBLEMS WHOSE COLLECTIVE ANALYSIS OUR PEOPLES EXPECT. IN THE MEETING OF QUITO IT WAS DEMONSTRATED THAT WE, THE AMERICAN

FOREIGN MINISTERS, ARE DISPOSED TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS OF HIGH POLITICAL SENSITIVITY, AND THAT THE DISCUSSION CAN BE MAINTAINED ON A HIGH LEVEL, WITHOUT CAUSING LARGER DIVISIONS.

8. (B) THE INTERAMERICAN SYSTEM IS ALSO ATTACKED BY PRESENTING IT FALSELY AS AN INSTRUMENT OF THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES. A MAJORITY OF THE ORGANS OF PUBLICITY OF THE CONTINENT-INCLUDING THOSE WHICH FUNCTION IN THE UNITED STATES- HAVE STRIVEN TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE OAS CONCERNS ITSELF ONLY WITH THAT WHICH INTERESTS THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. AND THAT IS BELIEVED BY MILLIONS OF COMMON PEOPLE OF THE AMERICAS. THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF CONSULTATION DEMONSTRATED THAT AN IMPORTANT ORGAN OF THE INTERAMERICAN SYSTEM CAN FUNCTION AT LATIN AMERICAN INITIATIVE, TO DEAL WITH A SUBJECT WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES NOT ONLY HAD NO INTEREST IN DEBATING, BUT WHICH IT WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO POSTPONE.

9. (C) THE DEBATES IN QUITO MADE IT EVIDENT, IN AN IRREFUTABLE MANNER, THAT AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY OF THE OAS CONSIDER THAT THE CHANGE IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF WORLD AND AMERICAN POLITICS, WITHIN WHICH THE SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA WERE ADOPTED, NO LONGER JUSTIFIES PROLONGING THE BOYCOTT AGAINST THE CASTRO REGIME. ALSO MADE EVIDENT WAS THE NECESSITY TO AMEND THE RIO TREATY WITH PROCEDURAL PROVISIONS WHICH ESTABLISH A LOGICAL SYSTEM TO TERMINATE THE APPLICATION OF THE MEASURES CONTEMPLATED IN ARTICLE VIII, FROM THE MOMENT IN WHICH IT IS VERIFIED THAT THEY NO LONGER ENJOY THE SUPPORT OF THE SAME MAJORITY NECESSARY TO APPLY THEM. I BELIEVE THAT THE MEETING OF QUITO WILL
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HAVE THE EFFECT OF FACILITATING THE REFORMS NECESSARY IN THE RIO TREATY TO PREVENT AN INFLEXIBLE MINORITY, IN THE FUTURE, FROM FREEZING SITUATIONS WHICH NO LONGER ENJOY THE SUPPORT OF THE MAJORITY OF MEMBER STATES.
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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

----- 077891

R 041440Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8727

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SAN JOSE 4572

EXDIS

10. (D) THE MEETING OF QUITO SUCCEEDED IN BREAKING THE WALL OF SILENCE WITH WHICH WORLD WIDE COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA, AND ESPECIALLY THOSE OF THE UNITED STATES, SURROUND THE DELIBERATIONS OF CONFERENCE AND INTERAMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS. DURING THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF CONSULTATION THE INTEREST OF THE COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA OF OUR HEMISPHERE, AS WELL AS THE REST OF THE WORLD, FOCUSED ON AN INTERAMERICAN FORUM, SUCH AS HAS NOT OCCURRED IN MANY YEARS. THE REGIONAL ORGANIZATION GAINED LIFE FOR MANY SPECTATORS WHO HAD BELIEVED IT TO BE DEAD.

11. I BELIEVE THAT NOW THAT THIS FIRST STAGE OF THE DEBATE OVER THE SANCTIONS IMPOSED ON CUBA HAS CONCLUDED, WE SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON THOSE MATTERS WHICH CAN MOST CONTRIBUTE TO STRENGTHENING INTERAMERICAN RELATIONS WITHIN THE SPIRIT WHICH HAS BEEN EVIDENT IN "THE NEW DIALOGUE."

12. I AGREE WITH YOU THAT WE SHOULD EMPHASIZE THE STUDY OF THOSE PROBLEMS WHICH, BY THEIR VERY NATURE, PERMIT A CONCRETE SOLUTION IN A SHORT TIME. THAT WILL ALLOW US TO RETURN LATER TO THE MORE DIFFICULT QUESTIONS, WITH THE IMPULSE PROVIDED BY HAVING HAD SUCCESS IN THE SOLUTION OF IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS.

13. I BELIEVE THAT THE REPORT PREPARED BY THE COMMISSION ON UNITED STATES-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS, ENTITLED "THE AMERICAS IN A CHANGING WORLD", CONSTITUTES
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A MOST VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE STUDY OF OUR COMMON PROBLEMS. I SUGGEST THAT THAT STUDY BE TAKEN AS A GUIDE IN FORMULATING THE AGENDA FOR OUR FUTURE CONVER-

SATIONS.

14. WITH WARM REGARDS,
MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS
OF COSTA RICA
(END QUOTE)

15. ORIGINAL LETTER IN SPANISH BEING POUCHED
TO SECRETARY.
LANE

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